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Attorneys for Defendant,
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ZORYA RESEARCH AND PRODUCTION ENTERPRISES,

| Case No.:

Plaintiff.

V.

THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION; and DOES 1-20, inclusive.

**NOTICE OF REMOVAL
PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. §
1441(d) AND § 1446;
DECLARATION OF COUNSEL,
MARINA SAMSON**

Defendant.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Defendant, the Russian Federation, hereby removes to this Court the state court action described below, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441(d) and § 1446, and based upon the following grounds:

1. The removed action is a proceeding commenced before the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, on September 6, 2024, and styled *Zorya Research and Production Enterprises v. Russian Federation and Does 1-20, inclusive*, Case No. 24-cv-017784 (the “State Action”). In the State Action, Plaintiff seeks to enforce a foreign-country money judgment pursuant to California Civil Procedure Code §§ 1713, *et seq.*, against Defendant, the Russian Federation, which is a “foreign state” as defined under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act (“FSIA”), 28 U.S.C. § 1603(a).

2. As required by 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a), attached as Exhibit A are copies of the process, pleadings, and orders received by – and purportedly served upon – Defendant in the removed action. Defendant expressly reserves the right, among others, to challenge the validity, sufficiency, and adequacy of such process and purported service.

3. Because Defendant is a “foreign state” under 28 U.S.C. § 1603(a), removal of the State Action is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1441(d), which provides as follows: “Any civil action brought in a State court against a foreign state as defined in section 1603(a) of this title may be removed by the foreign state to the district court of the United States for the district and division embracing the place where such action is pending.”

4. The FSIA thus explicitly authorizes removal from the State courts to the federal courts in order to ensure uniform adjudication and to prevent adverse consequences for the foreign relations of the United States. *See, e.g., Verlinden B. V. v. Central Bank of Nigeria*, 461 U.S. 480, 497 (1983) (“Congress deliberately sought

1 to channel cases against foreign sovereigns away from the state courts and into federal
 2 courts"); H. R. Rep. No. 94-1487, at 32 (confirming that the FSIA empowers
 3 "foreign states" to "remove to a Federal forum"); *id.* at 13 (explaining the need for
 4 "broad jurisdiction in the Federal courts" in FSIA cases to ensure "uniformity" and
 5 minimize "adverse foreign relations consequences").

6 5. Here, the State Action is properly removed to this Court because the
 7 Sacramento Division of the Eastern District of California is "the district and division
 8 embracing" the County of Sacramento under 28 U.S.C. § 1441(d). Defendant
 9 reserves the right, among others, to move to dismiss this litigation under Rule 12(b)
 10 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure based upon the lack of subject-matter
 11 jurisdiction under the FSIA and improper venue—among other grounds—and/or to
 12 transfer the present case under 28 U.S.C. § 1404(a) to the United States District Court
 13 for the District of Columbia, which is "the dedicated venue for actions against foreign
 14 states." *Bettis v. Islamic Republic of Iran*, 315 F.3d 325, 332 (D.C. Cir. 2003).

15 6. Here, removal is timely under 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b) because "a copy of
 16 the initial pleading" and other attachments were received, on information and belief,
 17 at Defendant's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on May 12, 2025.

18 7. Respectfully, Defendant hereby reserves the right to move for extension
 19 of potential deadlines, including under 28 U.S.C. § 1441(d). *See, e.g.*, Minute Order,
 20 *Teco Guatemala Holdings, LLC v. Republic of Guatemala*, No. 17-CV-0102 (D.D.C.
 21 Jan. 22, 2020) (granting extension of time to permit a foreign government "adequate
 22 time to confer with counsel" and "a full opportunity to present its arguments" under
 23 the FSIA).

24 8. As required by 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d), written notice of the removal of this
 25 action will be transmitted to Plaintiff's counsel forthwith. A copy of this Notice is
 26 also being filed with the Clerk of the Superior Court of California, County of
 27 Sacramento.

9. Respectfully, nothing in this Notice of Removal shall be considered as consent to jurisdiction in the United States or a waiver of Defendant's sovereign immunity under the FSIA, or any other available immunity or defense. Nor shall anything in this Notice be considered a waiver of service on Defendant as required under 28 U.S.C. § 1608(a). The Russian Federation hereby reserves all rights with regard to all such issues, immunities, and defenses.

WHEREFORE, Defendant hereby removes the State Action from the Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, to this Court, and requests that further proceedings be conducted in this Court as provided by law.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 10, 2025

**IVIE McNEILL WYATT
PURCELL & DIGGS**

By:

Rodney S. Diggs, Esq.
Marina Samson, Esq.
Attorneys for Defendant,
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

1 **DECLARATION OF MARINA SAMSON**

2 I, Marina Samson, declare as follows:

3 1. I am a senior attorney at law duly licensed and admitted to practice
4 before all courts of the State of California, in the United States District Court for the
5 Central and Eastern Districts of California and the United States Court of Appeals
6 for the Ninth Circuit. I am a partner in the law firm of Ivie McNeill Wyatt Purcell &
7 Diggs, counsel for Defendant the Russian Federation in this action. The statements
8 contained in this declaration are made of my personal knowledge except as to those
9 statements expressly stated to be made under information and belief. If called to
10 testify as a witness, I could and would competently testify to the facts set forth herein
11 below.

12 2. Attached hereto as Exhibit 1, is a true and correct copy of Plaintiff's
13 Complaint For Recognition And Enforcement off Foreign-Country Money Judgment
14 and the Summons purportedly served on the Russian Federation because "a copy of
15 the initial pleading" and other attachments were received, on information and belief,
16 at the Russian Federation's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on May 12, 2025.

17 3. The only defendant to date is the Russian Federation who has been
18 served. The Russian Federation consents to the removal of this matter.

19 4. Nothing in this Notice of Removal shall be considered as consent to
20 jurisdiction in the United States or a waiver of Defendant's sovereign immunity
21 under the FSIA, or any other available immunity or defense. Nor shall anything in
22 this Notice be considered a waiver of service on Defendant as required under 28
23 U.S.C. § 1608(a). The Russian Federation hereby reserves all rights with regard to
24 all such issues, immunities, and defenses.

25 5. The Notice of Removal is being filed in this Court and in the Superior
26 Court of the State of California, County of Sacramento.

27 I declare under penalty of perjury to the laws of the United States of America
28 that the foregoing is true and correct.

1 Executed on this 10th day of June 2025 at Los Angeles, California.
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3 /s/ *Marina Samson*
4 Marina Samson, Esq., Declarant
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1 **PROOF OF SERVICE**

2 STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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4 I am a resident of the County aforesaid; I am over the age of eighteen years
5 and not a party to the within entitled action; my business address is 444 S. Flower
6 Street, Suite 3200, Los Angeles, CA 90071.

7 On June 10, 2025, I served the within ***NOTICE OF REMOVAL PURSUANT***
8 ***TO 28 U.S.C. § 1441(D) AND § 1446; DECLARATION OF COUNSEL, MARINA***
SAMSON on all interested parties in said action:

9 [**X**] by placing the thereof enclosed in sealed envelopes addressed as stated on
10 the attached mailing list.

11 [] OVERNIGHT MAIL: I caused such envelope to be delivered via overnight
12 mail to the offices of the addressee(s) listed below:

13 [**X**] BY E-MAIL: I caused said document to be e-mailed as indicated on the
14 attached service list.

15 [**X**] BY MAIL

16 [] I deposited such envelope in the mail at Los Angeles, California. The
17 envelope was mailed with postage thereon fully prepaid.

18 [**X**] I am "readily familiar" with the firm's practice of collection and processing
19 correspondence for mailing. It is deposited with the U.S. postal service on
20 that same day with postage thereon fully prepaid at Los Angeles, California, in
21 the ordinary course of business. I am aware that on motion of party served,
22 service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date or postage meter date is
more than one day after date of deposit for mailing in affidavit.

23 [**X**] **FEDERAL** - I declare that I am employed in the office of a member of the
24 bar of this court at whose direction the service was made.

25 Executed on June 10, 2025, at Los Angeles, California.

26 **MARTHA CARRILLO**

27 _____
/s/-Martha Carrillo

SERVICE LIST

Kurt A. Kappes (SBN CA 146384) Alexander L. Nowinski (SBN CA 304967) GREENBERG TRAURIG, LLP 400 Capitol Mall, Suite 2400 Sacramento, California 95814 Telephone: 916.442.1111 Facsimile: 916.448.1709 kappesk@gtlaw.com alexander.nowinski@gtlaw.com	Attorneys for Plaintiff, ZORYA RESEARCH AND PRODUCTION ENTERPRISES
Jason H. Kislin (<i>pro hac vice pending</i>) GREENBERG TRAURIG, LLP 500 Campus Drive, Suite 400 Florham Park, New Jersey 07932 Telephone: 973.360.7900 Facsimile: 973.301.8410 kislinj@gtlaw.com	Attorneys for Plaintiff, ZORYA RESEARCH AND PRODUCTION ENTERPRISES